



## MAJESTIES ANSWER

To the PETITION which accompanied the DECLARATION of the House of COMMONS:

Presented to Him at Hampton-Court, the first of December. 1641.



## LONDON:

Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printerto
the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by
the Assignes of JOHN BILL.
MDCXLI.

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annexed thereunto, We had taken some time to consider of it, as befitted Us in a matter of that confequence, being confident, that your own reason and regard to Us, as well as Our expresse intimation by Our Comptroller to that purpose, would have restrained you from the publishing of it; till such time, as you should have received Our Answer to it: But, much against Our expectation, finding the contrary, that the said Declaration is already abroad in Print, by directions from your House, as appears by the printed Copy; VVe must ler you know that VVe are very fenfible of the difrespect. Notwithstanding, it is Our Intention, that no failing on your -TERRIB

part, shall make Us fail in Ours, of giving all due satisfaction to the delires of Our people, in a Parliamentary way; And therefore VVe send you this Answer to your Petition, reserving Our self in point of the Declaration, which VVe think unparliamentary, and shall take a course to do that which VVe shall think sit in prudence and honour:

To the Petition, VVe say, that although there are divers things in the Preamble of it, which VVe are so far from admitting, that VVe professe VVe cannot at all understand them, as, Of a wicked and malignant party prevalent in the Government; Of some of that party admitted to Our Privie Councell,

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and to other Imployments of trust, and neerest to Us and Our Children; Of Endeavours to sowe among the People false scandals and imputations, to blemish and disgrace the Proceedings of the Parliament: All, or any of which, did VVe know of, VVe should be as ready to remedy and punish, as you to complain of. That the Prayers of your Petition are grounded upon fuch Premisses as We must in no wise admit; yet notwithstanding VVe are pleased to give this Answer to · garaunharioi you.

To the first concerning Religion, consisting of severall branches, VVe say, that for the preserving the Peace and Safety of the Kingdom from the designes of the Popula (5)

partie, VVe have, and will still concur with all the just desires of Our people in a Parliamentarie way; That for the depriving of the Bishops of their Votes in Parliament, VVe would have you consider, that their right is grounded upon the fundamentall Law of the Kingdom, and constitution of Parliament : This VVe would have you consider, but since you desire Our concurrence herein in a Parliamentary way, VVe will give no further answer at this time.

As for the abridging of the inordinate power of the Clergy, VVe conceive that the taking away of the high Commission Court hath well moderated that, but if there continue any Usurpations, or

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Excesses in their Jurisdictions, We therein neither have nor will protect them. I had been a few

Unto that Clause which concerneth Corruptions (as you stile them) in Religion, in Church-government, and in Discipline, and the removing of fuch unnecessary Geremonies as weak Consciences might cheque at. That for any illegall Innovations which may have crept in, VVe shall willingly concur in the removall of them. That if Our Parliament shall advise Us. to call a Nationall Synod, which may duly examine fuch Ceremomes as give just cause of offence to any. We shall take it into consideration, and apply Our Self to give due satisfaction therein; But

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VVe are very forry to hear in fuch generall terms, Corruption in Religion objected, fince VVe are perswaded in Our conscience, that no Church can be found upon the earth that professeth the true Religion with more purity of Doctrine then the Church of England doth, nor where the Government and Discipline are joyntly more beautified, and free from superstituon, then as they are here establish. ed by Law, which (by the grace of God) VVe will with Constancy maintain (while VVe live) in their Puritie and Glory, not only against all invasions of Popery, but vallo from the irreverence of those many Schismaticks and Sez paratifts, wherewith of late this B ' Kingdom itte.

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Kingdom and this City abounds, to the great dishonour and hazard both of Church and State; for the suppression of whom VVe require your timely and active assistance.

To the second prayer of the Petition, concerning the removall and choice of Councellours, VVe know not any of Our Councell to whom the Character set forth in the Petition can belong. That by those whom VVe had exposed to triall, VVe have already given you sufficient teltimony, that there is noman so neer unto Us in place or affection, whom VVe will not leave to the Justice of the Law, if you shall bring a particular charge and fufficient proofs against him

and

and of this VVe do again assure you, but in the mean time VVe wish you to forbear such generall aspersions as may reflect upon all Our Councell, since you name

none in particular. Consideration suff

That for the choice of Our Councellours and Ministers of State, it were to debar Us that naturall libertie all Free-men have, and it is the undoubted right of the Crown of England, to call such persons to Our Secret Councels, to publike imployment, and Our particular service, as VVe shall think fit, so VVe are, and ever shall be very carefull tomake election of fuch persons in those places of trust, as shall have given good testimonies of their abilities and integrity,

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and against whom there can be no just cause of exception whereon reasonably to ground a diffidence; and to choices of this nature VVe assure you that the mediation of the neerest unto Us hath alwayes concurred.

Concurred hind Prayer of your

Petition concerning Ireland, VVe understand your desire of not alienating the forfeited Lands thereof, to proceed from your much care and love. And likewife that it may be a Resolution very fit for Us to take, but whether it be seasonable to declare Resolutions of that nature before the events of a war be leen, that VVe much doubt of. Howsoever, VVe cannot but thank you for this care, and your cheerhas 5 3

cheerfull ingagement for the suppression of that Rebellion; upon the speedy effecting whereof, the glory of God in the Protestant Profelsion; the lafety of the British there, Our honour, and that of the Nation so much depends; all the Interests of this Kingdom being so involved in that businesse, VVe cannot but quicken your affections therein, and shall desire you to frame your Councels, and to give fuch expedition to the work, as the nature thereof, and the pressures in point of time requires, and whereof you are put in minde by the daily insolence and increase of those Rebels.

For Conclusion, your promise to apply your selves to such cour-

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fes as may support Our Royall Estate with Honour and Plenty at home, and with Power and Reputation abroad, is that which VVe have ever promised Our Self, both from your Loyalties and Affections, and also for what VVe have already done, and shall daily go adding unto, for the comfort and happinesse of Our people.

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